

✓ Delete the following claims:

Claim 29.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 27, 2002, has been carefully considered. In the Office Action, the Patent Examiner raised a number of formal issues. No prior art rejections remain and all claims have been indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record. By way of this amendment, Applicant has addressed the remaining formal issues and therefore, respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming. If the Patent Examiner has any remaining issues to be resolved, he is respectfully requested to give the undersigned a telephone call so that any remaining issues can be resolved telephonically.

Turning to the Office Action then, in paragraph 3, the Patent Examiner has asserted that the specification does not adequately describe the base as "neutral". As such, Applicant has amended claims 34 and 39 to recite "unshaded" rather than "neutral". This makes the claims more consistent with the specification.

With respect to claims 38 and 43, support for these claims is provided at page 7, lines 1-2 and 20-24; and page 9 at lines 14-17. These segments clearly define the fact that the pigments are pourable and adapted to be mixed with other pigments. Applicant has voluntarily amended claims 38 and 43 to change the claim scope afforded thereby.

With respect to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 25 as suggested by the Patent Examiner.

With respect to paragraph 6 of the Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 5, 10, 34, and 39 (as previously indicated) accordingly to take care of the minor wording objections raised in paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Lastly, with respect to paragraph 7 of the Office Action, Applicant has voluntarily cancelled claim 29, and therefore the issue raised in paragraph 7 of the Office Action is now moot.

It is believed that all of the outstanding rejections raised in the Office Action have now been obviated or rendered moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of

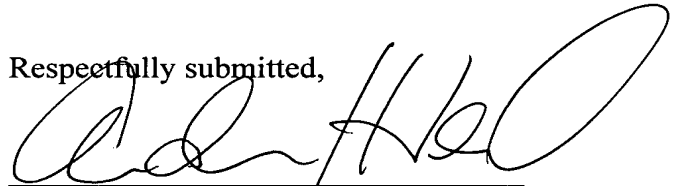
In re Appln. of: Mary Swaab
Application No.: 09/363,129

Allowance to be forthcoming from the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office. Again, if there are any remaining issues to be resolved, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call from the Patent Examiner to expedite this case along to allowance.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 8, 2002

In re Appln. of: Mary Swaab
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, BOX NON FEE AMENDMENT, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: March 8, 2002

Melissa Goodrich